

## FREE SYSTEM TO BE ABOLISHED

It is Provided in Bill to be Submitted to the Legislature

## BIG FIGHT IS EXPECTED

Representative Singletary, of Jackson County, is Author of Bill — Would Be Impracticable in Small Counties

Representative W. J. Singletary, of Jackson county has a bill which he is going to introduce at the forthcoming session of the Legislature which will undoubtedly cause a great deal of discussion. The object of the bill is to abolish the fee system and put all the county officers on a salary basis. The bill is self explanatory and the full text of it follows:

To be entitled an Act to fix the compensation of Clerks of the Circuit Courts, Sheriffs, Tax Assessors, Tax Collectors, County Treasurers and County Judges in the State of Florida; to provide for the payment thereof by the Counties, and to require all costs, fees, emoluments, perquisites and commissions now or hereafter to be provided for such officers to be collected by them and paid over to the County Treasurer of the respective counties. It is Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. That for the purpose of this Act counties of the State of Florida are classified as follows:

Class A shall contain all counties wherein, according to the census latest taken and promulgated by authority of the United States, the population shall not exceed ten thousand inhabitants.

Class B shall contain all counties wherein the population according to such census shall exceed ten thousand inhabitants and shall not exceed twenty thousand.

Class C shall contain all counties wherein the population according to such census shall exceed twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and shall not exceed forty thousand.

Class D shall contain all counties within the population according to such census shall exceed forty thousand inhabitants.

Section 2. That Clerks of the Circuit Courts, Sheriffs, Tax Assessors, Tax Collectors, County Treasurers and County Judges shall receive for their several compensations as such officers salaries which shall be paid quarterly by the counties. Such annual salaries shall be as follows:

In Class A counties, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall receive twelve hundred dollars; the Sheriff, twelve hundred dollars; the Tax Assessor, one thousand dollars; the Tax Collector, one thousand dollars; the County Treasurer, one hundred dollars; and the County Judge, one hundred and fifty dollars.

In Class B counties, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall receive eighteen hundred dollars; the Sheriff, eighteen hundred dollars; the Tax Assessor, twelve hundred dollars; the Tax Collector, twelve hundred dollars; the County Treasurer, seven hundred and fifty dollars; and the County Judge one thousand dollars.

In Class C counties, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall receive twenty-four hundred dollars; the Sheriff, twenty-four hundred dollars; the Tax Assessor, fifteen hundred dollars; the Tax Collector, fifteen hundred dollars; the County Treasurer, one thousand dollars; and the County Judge, fifteen hundred dollars.

In Class D counties, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall receive three thousand dollars; the Sheriff, three thousand dollars; the Tax Assessor, eighteen hundred dollars; the Tax Collector, eighteen hundred dollars; the County Treasurer, twelve hundred dollars; and the County Judge, fifteen hundred dollars.

Section 3. The compensation herein provided is hereby expressly declared to be full compensation and payment for the performance of all official acts, duties and services in civil and criminal matters, or otherwise, that are imposed upon such county officers by the laws of this State, including all official acts, duties and services, ex-officio or otherwise, except that Sheriffs as ex-officio administrators of estates of deceased persons shall receive the same compensation and be paid in the same manner as other administrators; and also that they shall receive the amount provided by law for feeding prisoners, provided, that when Sheriffs are required to go beyond the limits of their respective counties in order to execute a criminal process of any character, in addition to the said fees herein provided, shall receive their actual expenses, including actual expense incurred in conveying prisoners, incurred in serving such process beyond the limits of their respective counties as aforesaid, which said expenses shall be paid upon proper voucher made by the Sheriff upon being audited by the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 4. All fees, costs, emoluments, perquisites, allowances and commissions now provided or hereafter to be provided for such county officers

and accruing from any source whatever except as provided in Section 3, are hereby declared to be the property of the several counties, and each respective county officers shall collect all fees, costs, emoluments, perquisites, allowances and commissions that may be earned by or that may accrue to his respective office, and pay same over to the county Treasurer of his county, to be used as part of the revenue of the county: Provided, however, that whenever under the laws of the State, the county shall become liable for the payment of any of the said costs, emoluments, perquisites, allowances or commissions of any of the said officers of such county, such officers shall not be required to collect the same from the county, but shall be required to collect same from any other person or corporation liable therefor and pay same over to the County Treasurer as aforesaid.

Sec. 5. All costs, fees, allowances, emoluments, perquisites and commissions pertaining to or arising from the performance of any and all official acts, services and duties, except as provided in Section 3 of this Act, shall be by each of said officers received, collected, accepted and accounted for as the agent and servant of the State and county, for and on behalf of the county, and as its property; and the performance of all official acts and duties, ex-officio or otherwise, shall be by him performed and rendered as an agent of said county and State in consideration of the allowance to him of the salary and compensation provided by Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this Act.

It is hereby made the duty of each of said officers to demand and collect and receive all fees, costs, allowances, emoluments, perquisites and commissions that pertain to or are appurtenant to his office by laws now in force or hereafter enacted, from whatever the source they may arise, whether ex-officio or otherwise, accruing in any and all matters, civil, criminal or otherwise (continued on page 10)

## RAILROAD SCHEDULE CHANGES ON TUESDAY

With the wane of the tourist season, the Florida East Coast railway will materially change its train service on the East Coast, beginning Tuesday, April 4. On this date, says the Times-Union, the new schedules will become effective at 12.01 a. m., and the limited New York trains will be discontinued. Thru sleeping cars, however, for New York will be operated daily on trains Nos. 37 and 38, over both the Seaboard Air Line railway and the Atlantic Coast Line railway.

These will consist of two cars operating from Knights Key and Miami and two cars from St. Augustine, one car from each point via each line mentioned. It is stated that for space in the cars, application should be made to the local ticket agents.

The operation of these cars has been made possible by arrangements being completed with interested lines, whereby two through Pullman sleeping cars from both Miami and St. Augustine will be handled daily on the fast trains of the Atlantic Coast Line, being Nos. 82 and 85. The Seaboard Air Line will also handle two through sleepers from both Miami and St. Augustine daily, on trains Nos. 81 and 84, both of which are fast trains through to New York.

The local day trains over the Florida East Coast railway, Nos. 29 and 30, will be continued practically as at present.

It is also announced that, as long as needed, a new train service to be known as Nos. 35 and 36 will be operated between New Smyrna and Jacksonville, stopping at intermediate stations.

## CAPITOL REMOVAL IS LIVE QUESTION

Intense interest is general regarding the proposed moving of Florida's capital from Tallahassee to St. Augustine says the Record. In a strong interview President John T. Dismukes, of the First National Bank, of St. Augustine, expressed himself as favoring the movement and gave excellent and sound business reasons for the change.

"It is nearer the center of population than Tallahassee," said Mr. Dismukes in reply to the question as to why St. Augustine should be the capital city. "It is far more accessible and is a resort center and therefore better equipped to care for the number of people who congregate during legislative periods. A very large part of the business which goes up to the Supreme Court is from Jacksonville, Tampa, Miami and Key West.

"All public buildings should be gems of architectural beauty and when this is accomplished they should be pointed to with pride. But to be pointed out they must be in view.

"More people visit St. Augustine during a season than Tallahassee in a hundred years. The present capitol building is certainly nothing to be proud of and the only comfort a citizen of the State can get is from the fact that it is in Tallahassee where it is rarely seen.

"Why not build a capitol at St. Augustine that will be the pride of the people and the admiration of a traveled and appreciative public? And there are more reasons to follow."

## FORT PIERCE IS ADVANCING

Rapid Strides Being Made in Orange and Grapefruit Culture

## THE FORT PIERCE FARMS

The Opening of This Valuable Tract and Railroad Improvements Will Make Fort Pierce One of the First Cities

Several logical reasons are advanced by those who predict that in the near future Fort Pierce will make such rapid strides as to be classed among the leading towns along the East Coast of Florida. It has been, and no doubt it always will be, a great shipping point for thousands of barrels of fish caught by local fishermen in the adjacent waters. It has been, and no doubt always will be, the central point for the pineapple industry. It is now a large shipping point for oranges and grapefruit. This season 40,000 boxes will be shipped from the groves in the vicinity, and very soon there will be thousands of packages of vegetables shipped from the prairie land of the Fort Pierce farms.

While this year's fruit crop consists of but 40,000 boxes of oranges and grapefruit, it is estimated that within a year or so 100,000 more trees will be in bearing. Most of these groves lie along St. Lucie river, Five and Ten-Mile creeks and the principal shippers are K. B. Raulerson, of the East Coast Cattle Company; Allapattahatchee Fruit and Vegetable Company, of which E. Sidney Williams is manager and Wallace R. Moses is secretary and treasurer; A. M. Sample, E. Hartman, R. R. Gladwin, Dixie Almond, D. T. McCarty, G. S. and W. J. Tucker, Thad Straub, W. W. Charles, L. L. and Elizabeth Carlton, J. A. Alderman, G. A. Powers, J. E. Andrews, E. O. Morgan, A. Y. W. Hogg, Charles Bean and others.

But the most encouraging outlook for Fort Pierce, however, is the work that is being done by the Florida East Coast Realty Company, owners of what is known as the Fort Pierce Farms, embracing a tract of 36,000 acres. Recently one hundred forty-acre farms were put on the market at \$30 an acre, and up to March 1st eighty-four of them had been sold. This tract of land, a large part of which is prairie with a clay and marl subsoil, extends from Fort Pierce six miles north, running parallel with the Indian River and fronting on the Florida East Coast railway to a point above Viking station. This tract lies north and south six miles and east and west nine miles. On the east it adjoins the famous pineapple ridge around St. Lucie. The prairie portion of the tract is seventeen feet above the Indian River, high enough for the complete drainage system, which is guaranteed by the company and for which contracts have been let; yet this prairie is level and in excellent condition for all farming just as soon as the drainage contract has been completed.

The land which is now being sold by the company is the prairie, which has a top soil of eighteen inches to two feet of muck, with clay subsoil. It is excellent for truck and field crops as well as citrus growth. In the dry season this land is ready for cultivation, but as the drainage contract requires that the work shall be completed within seven months, and as this is a guarantee clause in all the company sales, it would seem to be safe for anyone to go on the land now. This promotion is offered by men who have had years of experience in fruit culture in the vicinity of Fort Pierce: W. S. Hoskins, of Weston, W. Va., and St. Lucie, Florida, is president of the company; R. N. Koblegard, of St. Lucie, a large pineapple and citrus fruit grower, is vice-president; T. A. Whelan, of Weston, W. Va., is treasurer, and Frank Armstrong, of Washington, D. C., secretary.

There is still another reason why Fort Pierce should grow big. It has been a division terminus of the Florida East Coast railway for many years. Recently the management of the road has bought a tract of land opposite the new court house, on which a fine two-story station is to be erected. It is also stated that new machine shops for repair work and a new round house are to be built. With all of these improvements in town and land development on the outskirts, Fort Pierce certainly has an enviable future.—The Florida Homeseeker.

## OBJECT OF DISPLAY ON MEXICAN BORDER

Further facts are learned from the interview between President Taft and Baron Uchida, the Japanese ambassador.

Japan will withdraw from Mexico. This assurance was given to the president by Baron Uchida, at the conference.

From Mexico comes the announcement that the secret Japanese-Mexican treaty had been abrogated.

Baron Uchida told President Taft that hereafter Japan will take no part whatever in Mexican affairs. This means that Japan relinquishes

the coaling station at Campo, near Manzanillo; the plan to obtain a naval base at Magdigena Bay; the effort to colonize the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and also promises to withdraw from Mexico and not seek another alliance conflicting with the Monroe Doctrine, and will allow the United States to deal with the Mexican situation without secret interference.

It is learned that the secret Japanese Mexican treaty was framed in April of last year, when the special agent of the Mikado, went to Mexico and concluded negotiations.

Since then the United States has watched every development.

The treaty related chiefly to trade relations and opened the doors of Japan to Mexico, it also provided for naval bases. This development led to the decision for this government to act.

The movement of the troops served notice on Diaz and his advisers that the United States would stand no trifling.

It served to warn Japan that the United States are wide awake and deadly serious about the situation. High official who were sent to Mexico by President Taft, fall of whom were conversant with every detail of the case have ridiculed the efforts made by some Washington news agencies to dismiss the Japanese situation with only a formal announcement of the diplomatic conference as their basis.

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Material is being placed on the ground for the erection of a commodious two-story residence for R. E. Blanchard on the lot he recently purchased just north of the A. C. Dittmar residence.

## FLORIDA RECLAIMING IT'S VALUABLE LANDS

"The greatest work of reclamation east of the Mississippi now in progress part of it done by the Federal government and part of it by private capital, will tame the hitherto inaccessible Everglades of Florida," says the Boston Herald. "The engineers of the Federal government have been able to co-operate with the State of Florida and they predict that within four or five years large steamboats will be able to navigate the canal and pass through the Everglades country to the Atlantic ocean. When the Panama canal is completed, this Floridian route will become one of the country's great waterways, saving about 300 miles around the somewhat dangerous keys of Southern Florida.

"There now are projected five canals, all to run from the Atlantic ocean to Lake Okeechobee. The most northerly of these canals will connect Palm Beach with the lake. Paralleling that and about twenty miles distance, a second canal has been planned with its Atlantic terminal at Delray. Of the three others the lower one will have its ocean terminal near Miami.

"With the five canals stretching from the lake to the Atlantic ocean, a large area of very rich lands should be reclaimed. Furthermore, these canals, in connection with the Caloosahatchee river, are to furnish adequate transportation for ordinary coasters, thus fulfilling a prediction that some day Florida would construe a waterway connection with the Atlantic ocean and the Gulf of Mexico."

## THE NEW SOUTH IS POOR MAN'S LAND

Congressman Champ Clark, of Missouri, the coming speaker of the national house of representatives has amended the famous saying of Horace Greeley, saying:

"Go West, young man, go West, and make it to read, "Go South, my boy, go South."

"The South is the place, and my advice is to go there. You won't eat as much as you do here in the North. If you do, you'll die. Your clothing must be lighter and therefore less expensive. You won't have to buy fuel to speak of and you can allow your horses and cattle to graze out of doors the year around.

"Believe me, the South is the poor man's land, and you'll live to see the day when the South is going to be the richest part of the United States.

"Why, say, I know a man who made \$15,000 in one year off three acres of lettuce. Sounds fishy, doesn't it? True, though, for I took the pains to find out. It's a great country, boys, and if you want a good tip, follow my advice. That is, go early to the southland and grow up with its progress."

### Good Advice to Follow

NEVER go where you are not wanted. If a man wants you to go to his room he will invite you to do so, and if the merchant wants you to visit his place of business he will invite you through the columns of your local paper. It is wrong to intrude upon privacy. Don't do it—Ex.

## FLORIDA'S FISH BIG INDUSTRY

Our State Ranked Fifth Among the States in 1908

## ATLANTIC-GULF COASTS

Interesting Information is Given in a Special Report Made by the Census Bureau in Washington

The steady growth in the fisheries of Florida in the last thirty years made the State's product rank fifth in value among the States in 1909, according to special United States Census report on the fisheries of the United States, prepared under the supervision of William M. Stuart, chief statistician for manufactures, and soon to be issued by Census Director Durand.

Florida has a natural monopoly of the sponge fisheries; contributes two-thirds in value of the mullet product, and was surpassed in value of its shad product only by Virginia and North Carolina. It has the longest coast line of any State, with numerous lagoons, sounds and bays, often misnamed rivers, on the Atlantic coast, with shallow waters on the Gulf coast, shut in from the open sea by keys and lowland spits; and all of these waters abound in fish.

The value of the fishery products in 1908 was \$3,389,000 as compared with \$1,940,000 in 1892 and \$1,081,000 in 1877. In 1908 there were 9,212 persons employed in the industry; \$1,421,000 invested in vessels and boats, including outfit; \$326,000 in apparatus of capture and \$668,000 in shore property and cash.

Of the amount invested in vessels and boats, 60 per cent pertained to the Gulf fisheries.

Of 327 vessels employed, 39 were steam and motor power of 441 tons, while remainder were sailing vessels.

There were 919 steam and motor boats; 1,377 sailing boats and 3,288 row boats; 112 for diving and 6 for other purposes.

The Gulf coast fisheries employed nearly two-thirds of all the fishermen of the State and 83 per cent of those engaged in the vessel fisheries.

The catch of mullet in 1908 was less than in 1902, but it was larger than for any other year for which statistics are available. The increase in price raised the value of the 24,716,000 pounds caught in 1908 to \$652,000, while the \$32,298,000 lbs. caught in 1902 brought only \$473,000.

The sponge fishery belongs exclusively to the Gulf coast district, and is subject to marked fluctuations. The quantity caught in 1908 exceeded that for any prior year, but the value was exceeded in 1900. The average prices were lower than for any other year for which statistics are available. The sponge fisheries of Florida represent the entire industry in the United States and had a value of \$545,000 in 1908. Two-thirds were caught with diving apparatus and one-third with hooks.

The red snapper fishery has increased steadily in value from \$8,900 in 1880 to \$434,000 in 1908. They are caught with lines in the Gulf waters.

The shad catch of 1908 represented a value of \$320,000, having risen gradually from \$20,000 in 1880 and \$42,000 in 1902.

The oyster fishery products in 1908 were valued at \$296,000, showing a decrease of \$69,000 since 1902, but this decrease has all taken place in the Atlantic coast district, while on the Gulf coast there was an increase from \$124,000 in 1902 to \$187,000 in 1908.

Squeteague, or sea trout, were caught to the value of \$196,000 as compared with \$73,000 in 1902.

About three-fourths of all the alligators killed in the United States in 1908 were secured in Florida, the product aggregating 51,000 hides, valued at \$48,000, as compared with 31,000 hides valued at \$18,000 in 1902.

More than two-thirds of the otter skins caught in the entire country came from Florida. The total number in 1908 was 2,900 skins of the value of 21,000 as compared with 3,300 skins valued at \$18,000 in 1902.

Alwives, amber-fish, angel-fish, black bass, bluefish, bream, catfish, crevalle, croaker, drum, grunt, hogfish, jewfish, ladyfish, pompano, porkfish, sheepshead sailor's choice, spot, crappie, yellow-tail and other kinds of fish help make up the \$3,389,000 worth of products of the State.

The value of the products of the Gulf fisheries was \$2,120,000 and of the Atlantic coast \$1,269,000. Shad led in value on the Atlantic coast and sponge in the Gulf fisheries. Shad, mullet and squeteague constituted one-half of the total value of products on the Atlantic coast, and sponge, mullet and red snapper more than two-thirds of the total value of the Gulf fisheries.

### Baptist Church Services

Services at the Baptist church next Sunday will be as follows: Preaching morning and evening by the pastor; morning theme, "What do Baptist Observe the Lord's Supper For?" evening theme, "The Soul's Portion." Sunday School lesson, "Elisha heals Naaman the Syrian." at 9:45 a. m. B. Y. P. U. at 6:45 p. m. Strangers welcome, come and feel at home among us. A cordial invitation to all.